Exploration work programmes under these contracts are divided into one to three exploration phases over a period of 7-8 years.

(c) The activities for accelerating exploration in the country, involving acquisition of new data, reprocessing/reinterpretation of existing data and offer of blocks form a continuous an ongoing process. Already two rounds of bidding have been completed under the New Exploration Licensing Policy.

Functioning of Field Officers

280. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different oil and diesel companies depute their sales field officers to check malpractices in the Petrol Pumps/Retail outlet through out the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the reports submitted by these officers against any retail outlet are not being scrutinized and not Substantiated at the high level in the respective oil companies and the arbitrary reports submitted by these officers are treated as final;

(c) whether this results in tantamount to harassments and denial of social justice; and

(d) the details of steps taken to remove these anomalies in the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The inspection reports of the Field Officers are scrutinised at the designated levels in the respective oil companies. Whenever, any irregularity/malpractice is detected during the inspection by Field Officer, a show cause notice as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001, issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, is issued to the Dealer allowing him to explain. Further action is taken after reviewing the explanation as per the guidelines.